

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3346

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJ: ADMIRAL SUDOMO ON CRACKDOWN ON "CRIMINAL
ELEMENTS" IN JAKARTA, TRIALS OF JAN. 15
DETAINEES

REF: A) JAKARTA 7728 B) JAKARTA 8258

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. JAKARTA PRESS JULY 15 HEADLINED JULY 13 STATEMENT
BY KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO THAT DURING
PREVIOUS WEEK 800 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN SERIES OF
POLICE RAIDS IN THE CAPITAL. SUDOMO NOTED THAT MOST OF
THOSE ARRESTED WERE VAGRANTS, MANY WITH PREVIOUS HISTORY
OF ARRESTS. SUDOMO STRESSED "SOCIAL" NATURE OF PROBLEM
OF VAGRANCY AND ASSOCIATED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, AND
STATED THAT VAGRANTS WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO TRANS-
MIGRATION PROGRAM AS APPROACH TO LONG-TERM REHABILITATION.

2. AT SAME MEETING WITH PRESS (FOLLOWING SUDOMO MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO), SUDOMO SAID THAT ALL JANUARY 15
DETAINEE INTERROGATION RESULTS HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO
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ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR PROSECUTION. SUDOMO DESCRIBED

DETAINEES AS BELONGING TO THREE GROUPS: THOSE WHO ACTED FROM IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION; THOSE WHO ACTED FROM FRUSTRATION; AND THOSE WHO SIMPLY TOOK PART OR "CARRIED OUT" THE INCIDENT. ONE VERSION (IN INDONESIAN LANGUAGE DAILY BERITA YUDHA) REFERRED TO "PUPPETEERS" " THOSE WHO WERE USED," AND "THOSE WHO IMPLEMENTED," NOTING THAT SUDOMO REFERRED TO THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AS HAVING BEEN UNCONSCIOUSLY USED AND INDICATED THAT THE DIFFERENT GROUPS SHOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY UNDER THE LAW. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENTS:

A. POLICE RAIDS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT SOLELY WITHIN CONTEXT OF OVERALL TIGHTENING OF SECURITY MEASURES AND RISING CONCERN OVER URBAN CRIME AS EVIDENCED IN SEVERAL RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY GOI SECURITY OFFICIALS (SEE REF A). SUDOMO SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO A ROUND-UP OF VAGRANTS AT TIME OF PATA CONFERENCE AS A SIMILAR OPERATION. NO LINK WITH JANUARY 15 DETENTIONS APPEARS INTENDED, AND NONE HAS BEEN REPORTED BY OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES.

B. SUDOMO'S IDEA OF USING TRANSMIGRATION PROGRAM TO RESETTLE VAGRANTS IS NOT NEW AND HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN MENTIONED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND NAVATT. UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT PRESENT GROUP OF DETAINEES WILL BE TRANSMIGRATED, SINCE CURRENT GOI DETENTION LAW FOR MINOR OFFENCES ALLOWS ONLY TWENTY DAYS' DETENTION; SUDOMO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE IS STUDYING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VAGRANCY LAW IN HOPES OF CHANGING GOI LAW TO ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH SUCH CASES.

C. SUDOMO'S NEW CATERGORIZATION OF JANUARY 15 DETAINEES AT LEAST OFFERS PROMISE OF MORE LOGICAL DIVISION OF DETAINEES THAN CONVOLUTED CONSPIRACY THEORIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD PREVIOUSLY. UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS STATEMENT PORTENDS NEW GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO TRIAL PROCESS OR MERELY REFLECTS SUDOMO'S LOQUACIOUS STYLE
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WHEN SPEAKING WITH REPORTERS. JULY 12 ARTICLE IN LEADING DAILY KOMPAS REPORTED THAT DOSSIER OF STUDENT DETAINEE HARIMAN SIREGAR HAD BEEN FORWARDED FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL TO COURT JULY 8, AND QUOTED UNNAMED SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT CHARGE MIGHT BE SUBVERSION (WITH POSSIBLE DEATH SENTENCE). ARTICLE ALSO QUOTED COURT SOURCES AS SAYING THIS TRIAL WOULD BRING OUT THE "SURPRISE" PROMISED RECENTLY BY BAKING CHIEF YOGA (REFTEL B). THESE STATEMENTS

MAKE IT APPEAR EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDS
TO REGARD SIREGAR AS ONE OF THOSE WHO WAS "USED" IN
CONNECTION WITH JANUARY RIOTS.
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